

Salman Bakht

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EDUCATION

Ph. D. Candidate, Media Arts and Technology (MAT), degree expected June 2011
University of California, Santa Barbara, California, Advisor: Clarence Barlow

Master of Science, Electrical Engineering, 2004
Columbia University, New York, New York, Focus: Multimedia Signal Processing

Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical Engineering, 2003
The Cooper Union, New York, New York, Focus: Signal Processing and Communications

AWARDS

- **ICMC Student Scholarship**, August 2009
- **Dorothy and Sherrill C. Corwin Award for Excellence in Music Composition**, Solo/ Chamber Ensemble Category (1st prize), May 2009
- **Dorothy and Sherrill C. Corwin Award for Excellence in Music Composition**, Electronic-Acoustic Category (1st prize), May 2009
- **Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Visual, Performing, Media Arts Award**, April 2009, grant for development of *LovelyWeather*, a multi-stage media art project, in collaboration with composer Christopher Jette and visual artist Alejandro Casazi

PERFORMANCES AND INSTALLATIONS

Non-collaborative compositions unless otherwise noted.

- **The Cooper Union**, New York – *Nodes and Passages* (installation), 1/21–2/18/2010
- **Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium: Canadian Electroacoustic Community / NAISA**, Toronto – *Santa Barbara Soundscape*, 8/8/2009
- **Literature.Culture.Media Research Slam**, Santa Barbara – *Mushrooms (Field)*, 5/22/2009
- **GIANT EAR))): free103point9 / NYSAE**, New York – *rough4radio3*, 4/5/2009
- **Media Arts, Sciences, and Technology Workshop**, Santa Barbara – *PIANO 04h*, 1/29/2009
- **Sea and Space**, Los Angeles, *Salman Bakht Drinks Two Cups of Water* – 7/24/2008
- **UCSB**, Santa Barbara (various concerts and exhibitions)
 - *Christopher Jette*, 9/19/2009
 - *Source* – “*Diaphonic Trio*” by James Tenney . . . , 7/26/2009
 - *Mushrooms (8-channel)*, 6/8/2009
 - *rough4radio3*, 4/30/2009
 - *Intermission* (installation), 4/24/2009
 - *Silences of the Druids*, 4/24/2009
 - *Salman Bakht Drinks Two Cups of Water*, 11/6/2008
 - *Santa Barbara Etude*, 5/20/2008
 - *_object.fragment 1*, 5/20/2008
 - *C* (improvisation, collaboration), 5/19/2008
 - *Mushrooms* (collaboration), 4/25/2008
 - *An Alice Adaptation* (collaboration), 4/24/2008

PUBLICATIONS

- Bakht, Salman. "Noise, Nonsense, and the New Media Soundscape." (Presented at the *Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium 2009*.) *eContact!* 11.4 (2009).
- Bakht, Salman, and Clarence Barlow. "PAPAGEI: An Extensible Automatic Accompaniment System for Live Instrumental Improvisation." *Proceedings of the 2009 International Computer Music Conference*. 2009. 521-23.
- Bakht, Salman and Clarence Barlow. "PAPAGEI: An Extensible Automatic Accompaniment System with User-Defined Parametric Mapping." *Proceedings of the Workshop on Media Arts, Science, and Technology*. 2009.
- Bakht, Salman. "A Comparison of Development Platforms for Social Network Data Visualizations." *Transliterations Project*. 2009.
- Bakht, Salman. "Document Database Integration for the Professional Social Environment (ProSE)." *Transliterations Project*. 2009.
- Bakht, Salman, Pehr Hovey, and Kris McAbee. "MONK Project Research Report." *Transliterations Project*. 2009.
- Bakht, Salman, Pehr Hovey, and Aaron McLeran. "Open Journal Systems Research Report." *Transliterations Project*. 2009.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist/Report Coordinator, Transliterations Project, UCSB, 2008–Present
Under Alan Liu, coordinated research teams to develop research reports for the Transliterations Project, a UC-wide project studying online reading from the perspective of humanities, social science, and engineering; wrote and/or edited five 10–20 page reports covering technologies in text mining, data visualization, and social computing.

Research Assistant, English Broadside Ballad Archive, UCSB, 2008–Present
Developed catalog of audio recordings of English broadside ballads; edited and mixed over 500 archival vocal recordings.

Software Developer, PAPAGEI, UCSB, 2008
Developed PAPAGEI, an automatic accompaniment system, for use in live performance of musical works by Clarence Barlow; developed software to analyze a live flute performance and generate an accompanying melody in real-time; provided technical support for software in use in the sixth annual COMPUTING MUSIC Concert Series held in Cologne, Germany.

Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, Columbia University, 2004
Developed image processing algorithms and MATLAB software for analyzing the behavior of brain cells; utilized image processing techniques such as thresholding and edge detection; used statistical analysis methods to determine correlation between activity of brain cells.

Research Assistant, Department of Electronic Engineering, King's College, London, 2001
Under Professor Mike Davies, developed a model of the human auditory system in MATLAB to analyze compression and watermarking schemes.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Barbara

- *Media Arts and Technology Seminar*, MAT Program, Fall 2009 – Coordinated guest lecture seminar with students in MAT and Computer Science; prepared online video documentation.

- *Digital Media Arts Strategies*, Department of Art, Summer 2008 – Assisted in instructing 15 undergraduate students in using Adobe Photoshop, HTML, and CSS; gave lectures on programming and Javascript; critiqued students' website and digital art design.
- *Visual Design Through Algorithms*, MAT Program, Winter 2008 – Under George Legrady and Jerry Gibson, assisted students in individual project development; encouraged aesthetic discussion; developed course website and online reference materials.

Teaching Assistant/Tutor, New York City College of Technology

- *Elementary Algebra*, Department of Mathematics, Spring 2007 – Undergraduate class of 35 students; assisted professor in helping students work on problems during class; independently tutored students for one hour following each lecture.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Communications Engineer, Parsons Corporation, New York, 2004–2006

Primary engineer responsible for development of technical documentation for communications and security systems for the NY MTA transit system and the World Trade Center Transportation Hub; collected and edited over 1,000 pages of documents; coordinated between government agencies, technical writers, and other engineers.

SELECTED WORKS

In preparation

- *LovelyWeather* – project containing audiovisual installation, fixed-media, and interactive web-based components
- *Nodes and Passages* – 8-channel sound installation for stairwell, looped playback, processed voice and environmental sound

2009

- *Christopher Jette* – fixed-media, derived from radio interview and existing works (8')
- *Six Interactive Radio Pieces on the Theme of Home (A Matter of Perspective)* – six fixed-media works for radio broadcast (1' each)
- *Source* – "Diaphonic Trio" by James Tenney from the Compact Disc Music for Violin & Piano (via File Hosting Website) – fixed-media, derived from Tenney's *Diaphonic Trio* (18')
- *Intermission* – site-specific installation for four boom boxes, looped playback, derived from environmental sounds and Charles Ives' *The Unanswered Question*
- *Silences of the Druids* – fixed-media, derived from Ives' *The Unanswered Question* (5')
- *PIANO 04h* – improvisation for MIDI player piano with human performer and automatic accompaniment by the PAPAGEI software developed by Salman Bakht and Clarence Barlow

2008

- *rough4radio3* – 8-channel realtime algorithmic sample playback, derived from radio noise plus one other sound source (second movement of *Santa Barbara Soundscape*)
- *Salman Bakht Drinks Two Cups of Water* – fixed-media, derived from drinking water (5')
- *_object.fragment 1* – 4-channel, fixed-media, derived from earlier pieces in concert (5')
- *C* – improvisation for flute and laptop performance, collaboration (6')
- *Mushrooms* – interactive dance/video/music composition, based on poem by Sylvia Plath, collaboration with video artist and dancer, also performed as 8-channel laptop performance and extended hour-long performance (5')

- *An Alice Adaptation* – fixed audiovisual work derived from film adaptations of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, collaboration (4')
- *_object.browser* – interactive video work using face detection
- *Santa Barbara Etude* – fixed-media, soundscape composition (first movement of *Santa Barbara Soundscape*) (5')

Recordings and extended descriptions can be found at <http://www.mat.ucsb.edu/sbakht/>.

EVENT ORGANIZATION

MAT End-of-the-Year Show Concert, 2009

Co-curated the concert for MAT's annual show with video, electroacoustic, and mixed works.

Media Garden: Media Arts and Technology Exhibition, Primavera Festival, 2009

Curated an exhibition of artistic works and performances by students in the MAT Program as part of the Primavera Festival Festival of Contemporary Arts and Digital Media.

cremate (a without b): MAT Student and Faculty Works, 2008

Curated a concert of four-channel electronic compositions and interactive performances by students and faculty in the MAT Program.

Sounds and Motion: New Works by UCSB Students, Primavera Festival, 2008

Co-curated a concert with works combining student dance performances with acoustic and electronic audiovisual works; featured over 25 students in Music, Theater & Dance, and MAT.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Student Representative, MAT Program, 2008–2009

Served as a liaison between students, faculty, and staff in the program; organized faculty/student meetings and ongoing discussions to develop the program's curriculum, improve student workspaces, and encourage community activity and unity.

Primavera Festival Planning Committee, 2009

Attended weekly meetings in organization of the week-long Primavera Festival, which included concerts, dance performances, and installations by UCSB students and faculty.